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The future closure of Herty Drive

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The future closure of Herty Drive

Submitted by: Debra Sabia

3/8/2005

Question:

The future closure of Herty Drive.

Rationale:

The recent news of the future closure of Herty Drive will create difficulties for commuters trying to access campus. Who was involved in the decision to close this main campus artery? Was a traffic analysis done? Is there an impact report that examines the consequences for campus commuters?

Response:

Response from Joe Franklin: The closing of Herty drive comes out of the Campus Master Plan, which was completed in January 2002, the plan was submitted to and approved by the Board of Regents. John Portman Associates was our major consultant in developing the Campus Master Plan. Other consultants included Sasaki International, Waveguide Consulting, Newcomb and Boy, Jordan Jones and Goulding, and The Jaeger Company. The Master Planning Committee included Ron Core, Marilyn Bruce, John Daily, Philip Hodge, Kathy Albertson, Robert Haney, Melanie McClellan, Richard Mellett, and Casey Jackson. The closing of Herty has been reviewed on campus through many venues, including Faculty Senate, General Faculty Meeting, Fall Convocations, Student Government, Student Affairs Advisory Board, etc. My recollection is that it was well received in all venues. The purpose of closing it is:

1. Improve campus safety. There are a lot of pedestrian and vehicular traffic interactions.
2. Reduce on-campus traffic. Herty Drive is used by many people as a quick connection between 67 and 301. We wanted to keep that traffic off campus.

3. Enhance the campus Physical Environment. Obviously a well landscaped pedestrian walkway is going to be an improvement over what is there now. As I think most people know, we are generally moving toward a more pedestrian campus. This is part of that effort. I don't have any data on traffic counts or commuter impact. Obviously, commuters who park behind the Administration Building and Library, who use Herty Drive (like me) to access those lots will have to choose another route. There are about 100 combined spaces in those lots. So, its impact on those commuters is relatively minor and affects only about 50 to 100 people. There are reasonable work arounds to all areas.

Debra Sabia (CLASS) requested information on the closing of Herty Drive, particularly with regard to difficulties for commuters and whether a traffic analysis was done. Vice President Joe Franklin responded that the closing was part of the Campus Master Plan completed in January of 2002.